

# St Michael's, Bray with Braywood



## Annual Parochial Church Meeting Papers Sunday 21st April 2024

St. Michael's Bray with Braywood  
Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love

# Annual Parochial Church Meeting Papers

Agenda

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on April 2023

St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2024

Electoral Roll Report

Treasurer's Report

Generous Giving Report

The Church Teas and Raffle Report

The St Michael's Online Report

The Mens Friendship Group

Safeguarding

St Michael's Mission Plan

Music Report (and Music at Bray Accounts)

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and Church Hall Report

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2023

Tower Captain's Report

The Friends of St Michael's

**St. Michael's, Bray with Braywood**  
*Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love*

Notice of two meetings to be held at St Michael's Bray at 11.30am on Sunday 21st April 2024

# AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence:
2. First Meeting – Election of ChurchWardens:  
(nominations received Lynn Olney and Helen Pearson)
3. Second Meeting – Annual Parochial Meeting  
\*\* Minutes of the Meetings held on April 23rd 2023 and matters arising there from
4. The Election of members of the Deanery Synod which take place every 3 yrs.  
Therefore no elections are required.
5. Election of up to 9 Members of the Parochial Church Council  
Those willing to stand for re- election :-  
  
Lynda Jones, Katrin Brunning, John Seymour, Jasvir Banks, Mary Wiles and  
Sian Adams  
  
Nominations have been received.
6. Re-commitment to an annually held election of PCC members.
7. Election of Sidespersons:  
Those seeking election are  
8am:  
Richard Smart, Tony Ellison, Katrin Brunning, John Dieppe and Judith Riley.  
Anna Frizzell has decided to step down. Our thanks to Anna for her years of service.  
10 am:  
Sidespeople:  
Dorothy Chappell, Judith Riley, Tim Cook, Jackie Tucker, Peter Sands ,  
Roy and Brenda Gardner, Penny Murray, Jilly Rothwell, Julie Graham , Belinda West.  
and Mary Wiles  
Readers:  
Vicki Henley, Natasha Teeder, Mavis Waghorn, John Seymour, Bill Banks, John Buck.  
Ian Murray, Penny Murray, Lynda Jones, Jim Tucker, Judith Riley ,Helen Pearson and  
Julie Graham , Julie Tompkins and Mary Wiles.  
Intercessions:  
Penny Murray, Jim Tucker, Beryl Maw, Andy Giles, and Lynda Jones
8. Electoral Roll of the Parishes
9. St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2023-24
10. The Vicar's Report on Church Life in 2023-24
11. Presentation of the Financial Statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
(Treasurer's Statement)

12. Generous Giving Report.
13. The Mens Friendship Group.
14. Online.
15. Safeguarding Report.
16. St Michael's Mission Plan
17. Report on the Music of the Church and Music at Bray
18. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, St Michael's Church and Church Hall
19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2023
20. Tower Captain's Report
21. The Friends of St Michael's Report
22. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
23. Date of the Next Annual Parochial Meeting
24. The Church Teas and Raffle Report
25. Any Other Business

**Annual PCC Meeting of St Michael's Church Bray and Braywood on Sunday 23rd April 2023**

Held in St Michaels Church. A copy of these can be found displayed within the porch.

**Annual reports.**

The members of the current Council are as follows.

Rev. A.Swift	Chairman
H.Pearson	Church Warden
Lynn Olney	Church Warden
Mary Wiles	Deputy Church Warden
P. Murray	Deputy Church Warden and Deanery Synod Representative
J.Tucker	Deputy Chairman, Verger Deputy Church Warden, Authorised Preacher and Deanery Synod Representative
K. Brunning	Secretary and Deputy Verger.
R. Severn	Treasurer
J.Banks	Fees Treasurer
L. Jones	Sacristan, Lay Funeral Minister

N.Teeder Safeguarding Officer and Young Person's Advocate, Deanery Synod  
Representative

John Seymour.  
Sian Adams

### **Deanery Synod**

The Vicar is automatically a member of the Deanery Synod.  
The deanery synod members of the PCC are Natasha Teeder, Penny Murray and Jim Tucker.  
There is no election due this year.

### **8 Electoral Roll of the Parishes**

A new Electoral roll for 2024 has been prepared .

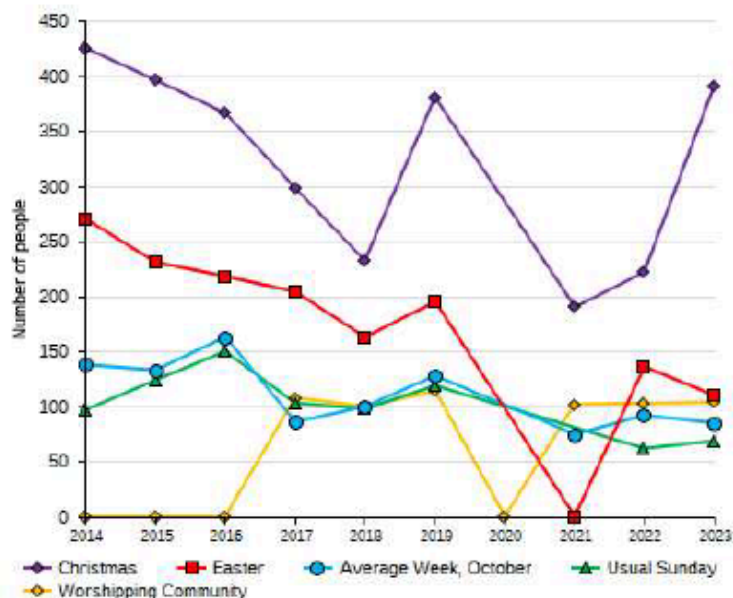
The date for the provision of the new electoral roll was displayed in the church porch.  
The new list has names and addresses. The names only list is displayed on the noticeboard  
in the church porch. The full list with addresses will be kept in the safe in the vestry. The  
names only list post APCM will be on the bookshelf near the font.

**Penny Murray** Electoral Roll Officer. March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

### **9. St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2023-24**

# Statistics for Mission Dashboard - Parish: Bray w Braywood

## 1. Attendance Summary, (2014-2023)

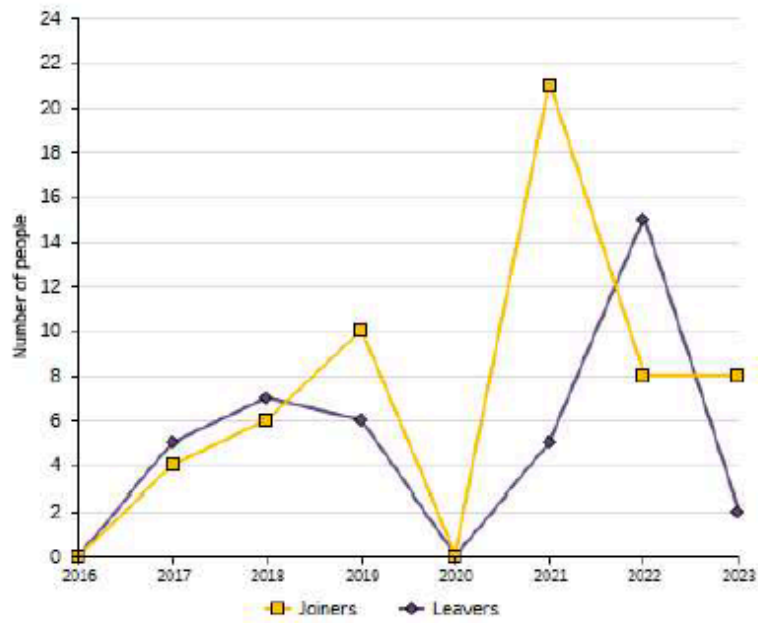
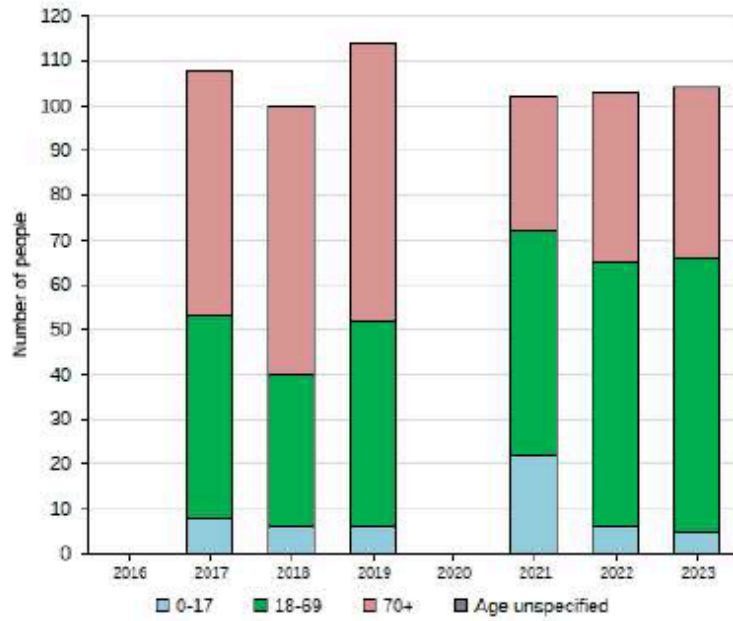


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Christmas	425	396	366	298	232	380	-	190	222	391
Easter	270	231	218	204	163	195	-	0	136	110
Average Week, October	138	133	163	86	100	128	-	75	92	85
Usual Sunday	97	124	150	103	98	119	-	-	62	69
Worshipping Community	0	0	0	108	100	114	0	102	103	104

N.B. Because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, churches were not asked to report their Usual Sunday attendance for 2020 or 2021, or their Easter attendance for 2020

- Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day;
- Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day;
- Average week, October: includes Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October but excludes attendance at services for schools;

## 2. Worshipping Community, (2016-2023)

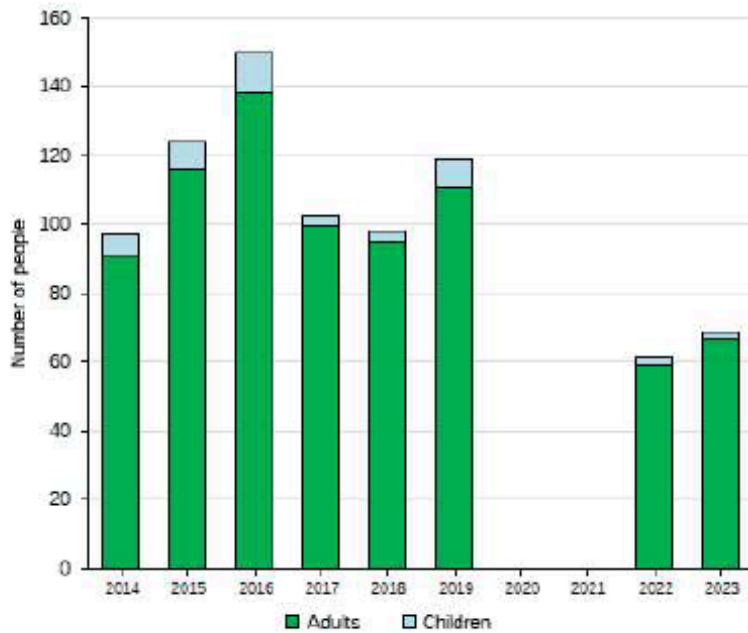


	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total	0	108	100	114	0	102	103	104
0-17	0	8	6	6	0	22	6	5
18-69	0	45	34	46	0	50	59	61
70+	0	55	60	62	0	30	38	38
Age unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joiners	0	4	6	10	0	21	8	8

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Leavers	0	5	7	6	0	5	15	2

Worshipping Community information has been collected from 2012 onwards.

### 3. Usual Sunday Attendance, (2014-2023)

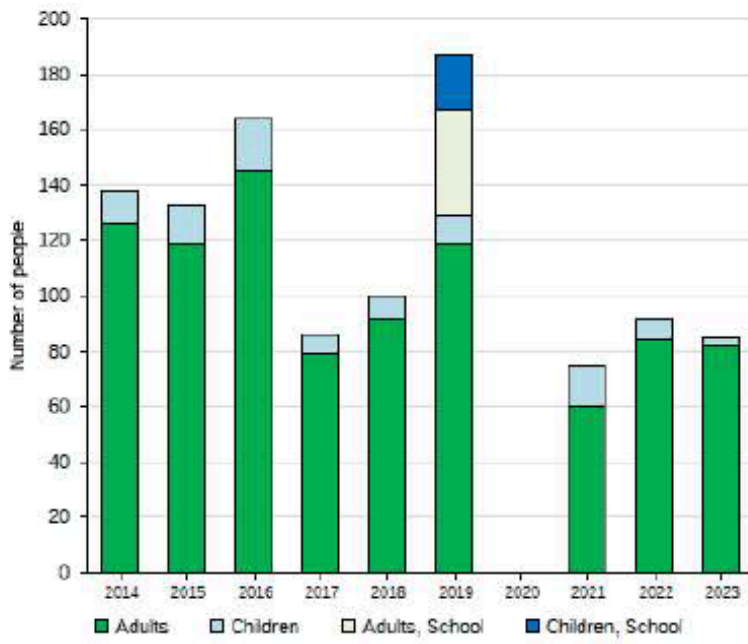


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adults	91	116	138	100	95	111	-	-	59	67
Children	6	8	12	3	3	8	-	-	3	2

N.B. Because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, churches were not asked to report their Usual Sunday attendance for 2020 or 2021



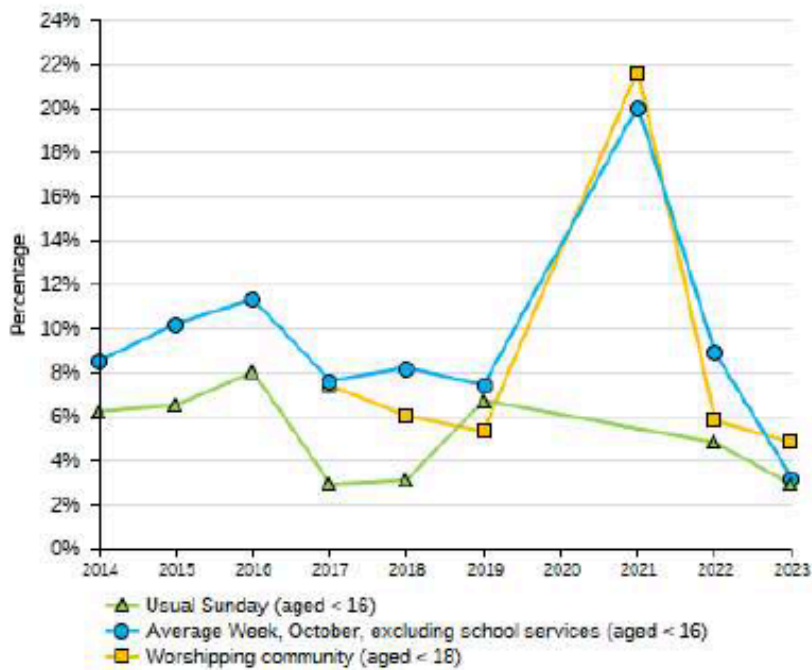
#### 4. Average Weekly Attendance, (2014-2023)



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adults	126	119	145	79	92	119	0	60	84	82
Children	12	14	19	7	8	10	0	15	8	3
Adults, School	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0
Children, School	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0

Attendance at Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October. Services for schools were included from 2013.

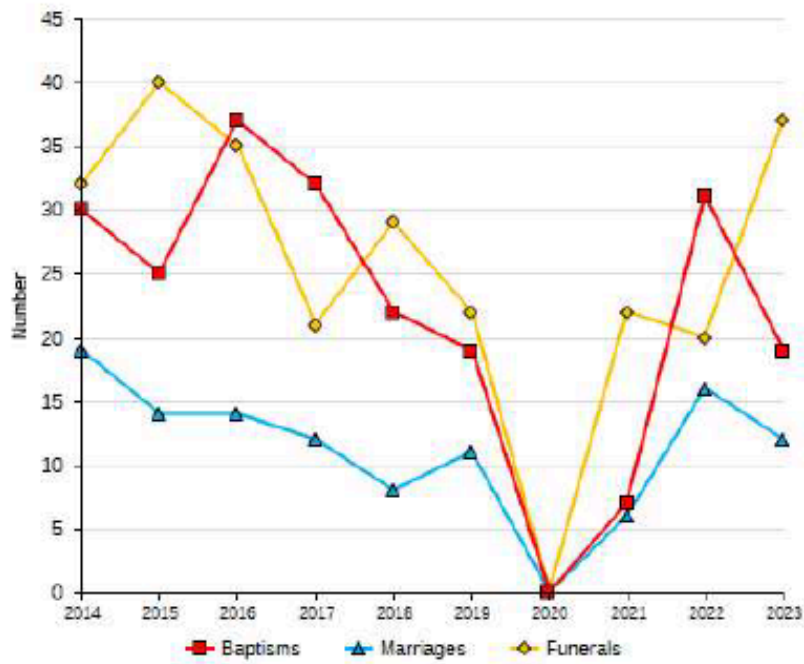
## 5. Percentage Children, (2014–2023)



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	6%	6%	8%	3%	3%	7%	-	-	5%	3%
Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	9%	10%	11%	8%	8%	7%	-	20%	9%	3%
Worshipping community (aged < 18)	-	-	-	7%	6%	5%	-	22%	6%	5%

Average week, October: Attendance at services for schools is not included

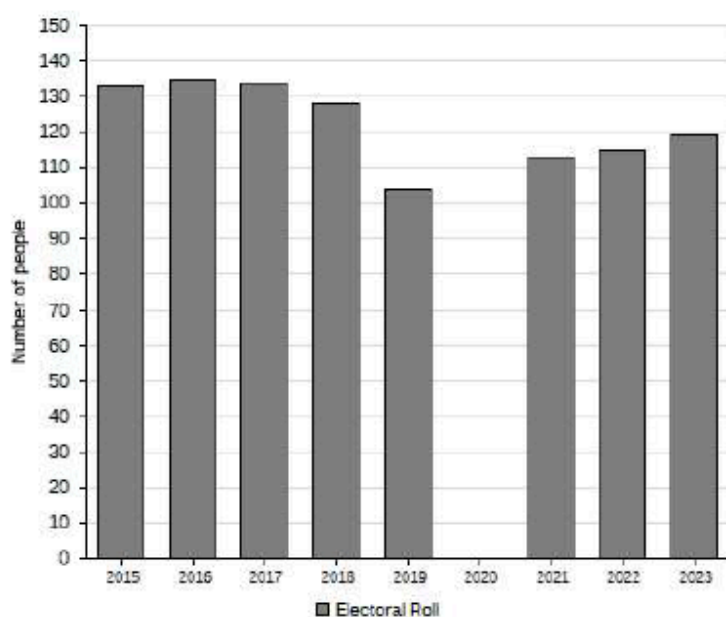
## 6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals, (2014-2023)



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Baptisms	30	25	37	32	22	19	0	7	31	19
Marriages	19	14	14	12	8	11	0	6	16	12
Funerals	32	40	35	21	29	22	0	22	20	37

- Baptisms: all baptisms & thanksgivings.
- Marriages: marriages and services of prayer & dedication after civil marriages.
- Funerals: those held in church & at crematoria/cemeteries.

## 7. Electoral Roll, (2015-2023)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Electoral Roll	133	135	134	128	104	0	113	115	119

N.B. Electoral roll renewal: 2013, 2019

## 10. Vicar's Report April 2024 (covering the year April 2023-April 2024)

### **“Becoming a more Christlike Church for the sake of the world” – Common Vision, Oxford Diocese**

#### Introduction

We have continued to make a marked increase in attendance this year as you will see in the statistics below. Our main weak point is with the under 16's. We addressed this with the introduction of a Crib Service on Christmas Eve which had great attendance. We will build on this with other special services for children.

Our Ordinand Andy Medicott is now in his final year of placement. Andy will be Ordained Deacon (God willing) on July 1 st . We have been successful in securing Andy as our Curate (part-time). So Andy will continue to minister and worship at Bray, and all being well he will be Ordained Priest in 2025. Thank you for supporting Andy and his family in our church community life here in Bray.

Spirituality Centre – Over the last year various parishes, groups and individuals have made use of our hall and upper room and grounds for Quiet Days and a place of retreat.

Music and worship – Music here at Bray continues to be an impressive part of our life and worship! Along with Ollie Gooch, Lindsey Bramley and the choir have done an amazing job enhancing our worship and developing the sense of God's presence in this place.

Mission Action Planning – We keep our Mission Action Plan as a regular feature on our PCC agenda. It is so important to be reminded of our core mission and give ourselves fresh insight into our mission direction (the new children's service would be an example).

Church Schools – I have led a regular assembly (Collective Worship) each week, in both our Church Schools, Holyport Primary and Braywood First School and serve as a Governor at both. I have also been involved in helping in some RE lessons at Braywood . We are also encouraging the schools to come along to special Sundays in Church and to bring their choir! Lynda Jones is a Governor at Holyport and I am Governor at Holyport and Braywood with Julie Tomkin at Braywood also.

Care Homes – My thanks to Lynda Jones who maintains our ministry to the local care homes as well as giving much appreciated support with lay funeral ministry, not to mention Sacristan duties and choir!

Jesus Hospital – The Vicar of Bray continues to be Chaplain of Jesus Hospital. We currently mark seasonal celebrations with a service in Jesus Hospital Chapel for Christmas, Harvest, and Remembrance and with other occasional special events. If pastoral needs arise, I am kept in touch by the Warden. The Donnington Trust (now The Hartley Trust) makes a donation to us each year to support the Church for the use of the Vicar as Chaplain for which we are very grateful.

The Friends of St Michaels - The 'Friends' are "To raise funds for the preservation, repair, restoration, and improvement of the ornamentation and fabric of St Michael's, Bray and its Churchyard and St Michael's Hall, so long as these buildings remain the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, and are used for charitable purposes, and to provide articles for use in worship in St Michael's, Bray; also support for music and other charitable activities in the parish." (Charity Commissioners website).

We thank the 'Friends' for all they do to help maintain the church here in Bray.

Under Pew Heating Project.-To reduce our carbon footprint and to make our heating more effective and more cost efficient we have introduced electric under pew heating and the project is now complete. Many thanks to Ian Murry in particular for steering this project through the rather complicated process it entailed.

Thank you to all who donated to the project including the Friends of St Michael's.

Generous Giving - Our thanks to Jim Tucker for encouraging our Stewardship and generous giving and promoting the Parish Giving Scheme There has been an increase in giving. Thanks also to Vicky Henley who has been managing our Gift aid this past year.

Safeguarding - As a church we remain highly aware of our commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the church community. We thank Natasha Teeder for being our Safeguarding Officer and Helen Pearson for administering our DBS checking and Safeguarding training.

Thanks to all! I am sure there are lots of other important events and people that I have not mentioned, forgive me.

As we enter a new season for the PCC, Churchwardens Helen Pearson and Lynn Olney, Deputy Wardens Penny Murray, Mary Wiles and Jim Tucker (now also Verger), Lynda Jones our lay funeral minister and

sacristan, Sian Adams our "minister" to the Zoom congregation, Richard Severn, our Parish Administrator and treasurer for the PCC, Pam Woodruff and the wonderful ministry of hospitality in continuing Sunday Breakfasts once a month and coffee after the 10.00 am service each Sunday (and all her helpers!) and all the members of the PCC. I want to thank everyone for all they do for the church community of St Michael's and wider parish; let's build on our strengths and see that St Michael's grows in faith and love and numbers.

With this report you will see some data on attendance, weddings, funerals etc. Again, this year I am displaying it as the Diocese sees it on our Parish Dashboard which is an online service provided by the Church of England which collates the data we provide each year and builds up a useful picture of trends over time in the parish.

Your Vicar,  
Ainsley.

The Revd Canon Ainsley Swift  
Vicar of Bray with Braywood  
Area Dean of Maidenhead and Windsor.

## **11. Treasurer's Report for the Year-ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**

### **St Michael's Church Bray District Church Council**

#### **Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members for the year ended 31 December 2023**

I report on the accounts of the St Michael Church Bray for the year ended 31 December 2023, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023, a Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended and supporting Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Church Officers and the Independent Examiner** As the Church's Officers, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act and to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of Independent Examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Officers concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to light which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act has not been met.

Mr P Fagan, FCCA  
Craufurd Hale Audit Services Limited  
Ground Floor, Arena Court  
Crown Lane  
Maidenhead,

Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023  
 Further analysis receipts & payments

	Unreserved Fund	Reserved Fund	Total as at 31/12/2023	Total as at 31/12/2022
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>a General donations</b>				
Donations - other	24,706	-	24,706	7,888
Donations - Oxford Diocese	-	-	-	1,515
Donations - Music at Bray	(281)	-	(281)	(2)
Donations - Donnington Hospital	1,000	-	1,000	-
Goodbox collections	3,210	-	3,210	4,970
Donations - The Margaret Horn	-	12,161	12,161	10,779
	<b>28,635</b>	<b>12,161</b>	<b>40,796</b>	<b>25,150</b>
<b>b Church activities</b>				
Wedding & funeral fees received	25,971	-	25,971	25,083
Less wedding costs & fees to OSBF	(18,491)	-	(18,491)	(15,807)
	<b>7,480</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,480</b>	<b>9,276</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>c Church running expenses</b>				
Bank charges	407	-	407	428
Honarium & Holyport Sunday Outreach	-	-	-	200
Church flowers (Christmas)	-	-	-	361
Christingle & Easter eggs	-	-	-	9
Royal County of Berkshire Churches	50	-	50	-
Website costs	215	-	215	215
Church & hall annual insurance	2,960	-	2,960	6,984
Church cleaning	-	-	-	-
	<b>3,632</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,632</b>	<b>8,145</b>
<b>d Sanctuary</b>				
Vino Sacro Alter Wine	151	-	151	133
Candles	640	-	640	397
Alter cloth dry clean	-	-	-	14
Communion Wafers	57	-	57	-
Palm Crosses	112	-	112	-
Church Flowers	603	-	603	260
	<b>1,553</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>804</b>
<b>e Utility bills</b>				
Gas bill	4,050	-	4,050	1,865
Electric	897	-	897	941
Water	262	-	262	219
	<b>5,209</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,209</b>	<b>3,025</b>
<b>f Repairs &amp; maintenance</b>				
Fire extinguisher annual maintenance	306	-	306	469
Organ tuning & maintenance	1,160	-	1,160	800
Earthing equipment annual maintenance	-	-	-	222
Church yard - cemetery maintenance	2,055	-	2,055	1,765
Church & Hall gutter repair	-	-	-	-
Central heating boiler	6,133	3,501	9,634	370
Replacement toilet key	-	-	-	-
Electrical Works	2,808	-	2,808	964
	<b>12,552</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>16,053</b>	<b>4,580</b>
<b>g Miscellaneous</b>				
Training	-	-	-	-
APCS & DBS Fees	(23)	-	(23)	111
Accountancy Support and Xero Accounts Software Fees	2,927	-	2,927	2,712
Donations	185	-	185	-
Miscellaneous	1,772	-	1,772	3,348
	<b>4,861</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,861</b>	<b>6,171</b>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray  
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022
<b>Cash funds</b>						
Bank current account		21,530	-	-	21,530	9,415
Deposit funds	2	10,947	66,410	-	77,357	71,072
<b>Other balance sheet items</b>						
Fixed assets - under new heading		41,765	-	-	41,765	38,707
Creditors		(410)	-	-	(410)	(200)
Debtors		5,151	-	-	5,151	-
		<b>80,013</b>	<b>66,410</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>146,423</b>	<b>118,994</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>						
Braywood All Saints Church	3	-	-	295,475	295,475	295,475
Investment fund shares	4	-	-	194,575	194,575	175,118
		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>491,052</b>	<b>491,052</b>	<b>474,594</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>80,013</b>	<b>66,410</b>	<b>491,052</b>	<b>637,775</b>	<b>593,588</b>

Notes

- These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- This includes The St Michael's House (sale proceeds) Trust which was transferred to local control in April 2009, making the capital available if needed for emergency repairs. For the time being the funds remain invested in CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, but with the usual PCC signatories.
- Cost £2,585. Valued for insurance purposes. At a PCC meeting held at St Michael Hall Bray on 21st September 2010, the PCC was granted a lease of Braywood All Saints former Church site for a period of 10 years at an initial rent of £5,575.
- The capital is held in Trust and invested in CCLA Church of England Investment Fund Shares, but the income is available for approved purposes.
- The movements in unrestricted and restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance 1 Jan 23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Depreciation	Transfers	Gifted 31 Dec 23 £	As at 31 Dec 22 £
Sunday school	432	19	-	-	-	451	432
Holsey Legacy	2,200	-	-	-	-	2,200	2,200
Chancel Repair	5,455	641	-	-	-	6,096	5,455
Church & Hall Repair Fund	29,811	5,249	(3,501)	-	-	31,559	29,811
St Michael's HO SP Trust	32,942	-	-	-	(20,000)	12,942	32,942
Margaret Horn Memorial	-	12,587	-	-	472	13,059	-
	<b>70,840</b>	<b>18,596</b>	<b>(3,501)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(19,528)</b>	<b>66,410</b>	<b>70,840</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
CCLA General Reserve	239	10	-	-	-	239	239
CCLA other reserve	-	-	-	-	10,708	10,708	-
Banking Current Account	9,415	127,695	(124,390)	-	5,620	21,531	9,415
Debtors / (creditors)	(200)	-	5,371	-	-	5,171	(200)
	<b>9,444</b>	<b>127,694</b>	<b>(118,418)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>36,248</b>	<b>9,443</b>
Fixed assets	<b>38,707</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,548</b>	<b>(4,490)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,765</b>	<b>38,707</b>
	<b>48,151</b>	<b>127,694</b>	<b>(110,870)</b>	<b>(4,490)</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>80,013</b>	<b>48,151</b>

Approved by the PCC by

and signed on their behalf

Floyd Ainsley Smith  
Chairman PCC

Richard Severn  
Hon Treasurer

Date:

Date:

The appointment of Auditors will take place at the end of this meeting. The auditors report will be published once we have it.



## **12: Generous Giving Report Jim Tucker.**

What we know as Generous Giving Sunday now has a settled date within the year, and is held on the Sunday after Harvest Thanksgiving, which is seen as an appropriate way of showing our appreciation of God's goodness. This year Ainsley preached a helpful and inspiring sermon, explaining that the oft-expressed view that parish share, (the church's largest financial commitment,) which is us gifting money to the diocese, is not right. Rather, it is a contribution to running costs more than compensated for by the provision of clergy and housing.

At the conclusion of Parish Communion that Sunday, and for a week or two afterwards, members of the congregation were invited to make a pledge on their giving. They completed and returned a form stating how they would mark 2023; joining the Parish Giving Scheme, reviewing their giving, or making a one-off donation. A pleasing number were returned, with several new members of PGS, and an excellent total of donations which have made a valuable contribution to the year's financial performance. As thoughts turn to Generous Giving 2024 there is much to consider.

Regular giving is, of course, at the heart of paying for everything that happens at St Michael's and at just over £57,000 the total for 2023, including Gift Aid earned, showed an annual increase of 10.6%. This is a great achievement on the part of everyone, for which we offer our sincere thanks. Church expenses, however, go up just as much as any others, so there are no grounds for complacency, and we need to maintain our efforts to ensure stability going forward. Most of the funds which appear in the parish accounts are "restricted", which means they can be used only for the upkeep of the church building.

With a need to keep careful track of how general finances are performing through the year, the PCC agreed with my suggestion to form an informal Finance Committee for that purpose. I am grateful to Richard Severn, PCC treasurer, Jasvir Banks, a PCC bank signatory, and Vicki Henley, the parish's Gift Aid Officer, for agreeing to join.

The support, financial and otherwise, which everyone gives, is gratefully acknowledged. If you are not yet a member of the Parish Giving Scheme, do please consider joining. You don't need to be a taxpayer for the church to benefit. There are always forms in the church .

The churchwardens will let you have one or do please speak to me or Vicki.

## **13. St Michael's Mens Friendship Group 2023/24**

The last year has been the best for fun, laughter and friendship. The group has grown in numbers since 2019. The past year has seen a number of non-church members join our group. We have continued to meet every other Wednesday, at lunchtimes. We have met at the White Hart in Moneyrow Green, also the Fifield Inn in Fifield, and the Palmer Arms in Dorney, plus The George on the Green in Holyport. We have also ventured a little further to Kai's Chinese restaurant in Cippenham. In all these venues we have been so well treated, and made so welcome, which encourages us to return. At Christmas, I suggested to the group that we push the boat out and visit Roux at Skindles. When making the booking we were offered their Chairman's Room which was a private dining room. We enjoyed a great afternoon with a fabulous lunch with a lovely view over the river and wonderful service. The fun and laughter and new found friendships created and enjoyed, is a

gift from God. One lunch time when we were leaving the Fifield Inn with our group, I was asked by a guy who was enjoying his lunch, what we were doing in the pub, as he had not seen a dozen guys having so much fun, as. I quickly explained that we were a group from St Michaels Church. He told me he was the COE of a company in Bray and he hoped that when he retires, he could enjoy the fun he saw that day. In addition to these lunches, Thomas and his wife Amita invited us all to Bray Bank for an incredible meal they prepared for us on the banks of the Thames, with all the men of our group lending a hand to erect Gazebos and organise the tables and chairs for some 40 plus guests including some of the Ladies from St Michaels. The weather was not too kind to us, but it just added a bit more fun to the day. I can not thank Thomas and Amita enough for their hospitality, on this day.

Also, during the year, we had a couple of day trips out. One to Brooklands near Weybridge, where we were able view a Concorde which is on display there and enjoyed visiting many other exhibits, before finding a Golf Club where we enjoyed another wonderful lunch.

The final day out, took us to the RAF Museum at Hendon, where we were able to see so much of the history of the RAF. We have a couple of days out planned again this year.

Our group has now found the bar, at the back of the village Hall, where we have also spent a few evenings chatting to each other, putting the world to rights. In closing this report, I wish to thank all of the group who have made the group what it is today. To sit round a table watching new found friends in deep conversation has been a delight and I thank God for being there, watching over us.

Andy Giles

#### **14. Online Presence**

We continue to 'zoom' our services; the 10am. Sunday services each week, as well as special services. This is part of our continuing mission, enabling us to reach people that are not able to get to church. We still have a regular 'zoom' congregation of around 12 people each week. We have occasionally used 'zoom' for our PCC meetings especially during the colder months of the year. The St Michael's website [www.braystmichael.co.uk](http://www.braystmichael.co.uk) is an important part of our church life keeping people informed of what is happening in St Michael's as well as being an important contact point for people wanting information. If information, other than that published on the website is wanted then contact can be made through the website by email. The website has had some updating work and more is planned.

We also maintain a presence on the Church of England website [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com) which enables people to locate their nearest church.

#### **15. Safeguarding Report**

All policies and procedures are up to date and are reviewed annually.

All DBS certificates and Safeguarding training requirements have been entered onto the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and are regularly reviewed and updated when appropriate.

**Natasha Teeder Parish Safeguarding Officer. April 2024.**

## **16. St Michael's Mission Plan**

The underpinning principles of the Mission Plan are

- To welcome all in faith, hope and love
- We are a community throughout the entire Parish
- We aim to be a contemplative, courageous and compassionate church and community
- That the areas of the Mission Plan should reflect the above and encourage an inclusive and Christ-like community.

Throughout these APCM papers there are examples of an inclusive community ranging from Sunday teas, to Music at Bray, and the community facebook page.

The main areas of the Mission Plan are

- (1) Nurture and Discipleship Courses
- (2) Children and Young People –
- (3) Pastoral Care
- (4) Outreach
- (5) Communication
- (6) Bray Christian Spirituality Centre

### **Ainsley Swift**

#### **17. Music Report**

It was with great sadness that we learnt early in 2023 of the death of Lesley Burch, long-serving assistant organist and choirmaster. Lesley's contribution to the music at St Michael's is immeasurable, stretching back over so many years, and always given on an entirely voluntary unpaid basis. The choir were able to express their condolences to Malcolm and the family by a full turnout at the funeral, and by a special event of which more later. Grateful thanks are due to Malcolm for a generous donation to Music at Bray in Lesley's memory. This was not the only such donation during the year, all greatly appreciated. After a cancellation due to illness in February the Music at Bray recital season got under way in March with an excellent performance of a Beethoven piano sonata by young Spaniard Victor Braojos, whose return visit is eagerly awaited. Then in April, on the eve of Holy Week, St Michael's church choir performed the Charles Wood St John Passion in memory of Lesley, for which they were joined by professional soloists and the splendid Drew Sellis on the organ. May saw another favourite at St Michael's, pianist Leah Nicholson, who came back to play for us the pieces she was to perform in her finals at the Royal Academy of Music. Josephine Davies has been bringing her jazz quartet to Bray for a good few years now, and 2023 was no exception. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't good enough for the vicarage lawn, but the usual enjoyable and well-supported concert took place in church. As a result Music at Bray was able to make a donation of £750 towards the cost of recent organ repairs, and the purchase of a votive candle stand.

October's recital brought us chamber pieces for cello and piano by Dvorak, while on Remembrance Sunday another returning pianist, Eva Doroszkowska, played a selection of pieces by eastern European composers which she entitled "Spirit of Resistance". Then come December we gathered the community choir for another splendid concert, with carols and

Christmas songs, which wouldn't be the same without ending with the audience joining in the chorus of Irving Berlin's "White Christmas". A moving part of the proceedings was a talk about the work of Thames Hospice by volunteer Amie Carter. We were thrilled to collect £1,100 for the Hospice, a record for Music at Bray.

Throughout 2023 the choir performed admirably week by week at Parish Communion, under the unceasing encouragement of Ollie and Lindsay. On a number of occasions a good number of members have sung, entirely voluntarily, at the funerals of members of the congregation, something which is of enormous credit to them.

**Jim Tucker**

MUSIC AT BRAY

**MUSIC AT BRAY**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Opening Balance at 1 January 2022	<b>10,779</b>
Receipts:	
Interest	101
Ticket sales	
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	909
Collections	
<i>Wood's Passion</i>	340
<i>Recitals</i>	930
<i>Community Carols</i>	971
Donations	1,500
Wedding fees	120
	4,871
Payments:	
To performers and expenses:	
<i>Wood's Passion</i>	500
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	600
<i>Recitals</i>	1,081
Donations	
<i>St Michael's PCC</i>	854
<i>Thames Hospice</i>	1,100
<i>In memoriam Lesley Burch</i>	50
Piano tuner	90
Sundries	35
	4,310
Closing Balance at 31 December 2023	<b>11,340</b>
Lloyds Bank Current Account	
	51
Lloyds Bank Reserve Account	7,577
Lloyds Bank Organ Scholarship Account	3,712
	<b>11,340</b>

*Jim Tucker*

Jim Tucker, Music at Bray Treasurer  
 March 2024

I have compared this account with the bank records and other related documents and these figures are in accordance with those records. I believe they give a true account of the funds available to Music at Bray at 31st December 2023.

*Bill Banks*

WR Banks, Independent Examiner  
 March 2024

## **18. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, St Michael's Church and Church Hall.**

St Michael's Church, Bray with Braywood APCM Fabric Report April 2024

During the year, from April to March this year, the following significant work was carried out on the church and church hall buildings:

- 1) Electrical repairs – All code 1,2 & 3 items, listed in the five year inspection (2022), have been completed at a total cost of £4180.
- 2) In July the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) was brought in to check the actual rating of the incoming, three phase fuses in the tower; necessary before the final installation of pew heaters could take place. All three fuses were rated at 60 Amps and duly replaced with 100 Amp fuses.
- 3) The final installation of pew heaters in the north and south aisles took place in August. All pews and choir stalls are now heated.
- 4) A successful working party day took place on the 17 th August which allowed us to thoroughly clean the church, following the heater installation. Routine gutter cleaning , the removal of verdigris from the stonework and the replacement of the hall kitchen floor carpet tiles (following an earlier plumbing leak) were all tasks successfully completed on the day.
- 5) During February our insurers sent a survey involving questions regarding all of our church activities plus the general condition and maintenance of the church. All nineteen questions were answered successfully. Two suggestions were made; firstly to include a 'working alone policy' in our H&S document and secondly to carry out formal Portable Appliance Testing, annually. My thanks to Lee Brunning for carrying out the PAT testing and also for using an Ecclesiastical Insurance template to put a Working Alone policy in our standing H&S policy document.

## **19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2023**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. July 2023 marked the start of a new triennium after Synod elections for lay representatives at parish annual meetings earlier in the year. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 68 members. Attendance varied from 31 to 38 over the year. The representatives for St Michael's are Penny Murray, Natasha Teeder and Jim Tucker. Jim is currently the Deanery Lay Chair.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2023:

Wednesday 8 th February 2023 at All Saints Church, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead:

Representatives of four Deanery churches shared experiences of studying the Bible  
All Saints Dedworth shared about their Life Groups and their use of the Bible Course by the Bible Society  
St Andrew's Clewer shared about a group which read the whole Bible together over five years, meeting up regularly to discuss what they had read.  
St Mary's Maidenhead shared a personal experience of studying Philippians, and how it had helped in spiritual growth, joy, and dependence on God.  
All Saints Boyne Hill (including an Iranian refugee) shared about their use of a book "Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes", interpreting Scripture through first-century eyes, including how Jesus offered new life and gave value to women.

Tuesday 23 rd May 2023 at St Michael's Church, Bray:

General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a detailed report on what had happened at the February 2023 General Synod sessions, in particular the motion and proposed amendments

relating to Living in Love and Faith. Synod members discussed and gave feedback on their past and present use of online church, with a diverse discussion and many examples of blessings as well as some challenges.

Tuesday 17 th October 2023 at the Soltau Centre, Stubbings:

Bishop Olivia, Bishop of Reading, addressed the Synod under the title of “Our church: where are we and where do we go from here?”, sharing her thoughts on history; post-pandemic trends and statistics; tired volunteers and clergy; a recent clergy survey; Living in Love and Faith; the challenge of making Jesus known to unchurched people; and the vision of a “simpler, bolder, humbler” church. Synod members shared questions and comments with Bishop Olivia. General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2023 General Synod sessions.

Thanks to parishes’ hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 931,978 of parish share in 2023, against an allocation of £ 1,000,714, which was 93.1% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 94.5%. This was a reduction from the £ 1,019,381 paid in 2022.

Rod Broad took over the position of Deanery Treasurer in October 2023 and the Deanery would like to thank Jim Tucker for managing the responsibility whilst the position was vacant.

## **20.Tower Captain’s Report**

Tower Captain’s Report February 2024 Training Despite not actively recruiting, we have three new learners that have joined us this year. • Amelie is now a regular ringer on Sunday morning and is continually improving. • Aurora is almost ready to ring on Sunday mornings and is progressing swiftly. • Abby has recently started and is learning bell handling. We welcome people from different backgrounds and are open to teaching people without a name beginning with ‘A’. We have a training bell and can now silence two bells (3 & 4) for training purposes. The simulator hasn’t been used a great deal, training has focused on bell handling before the practice, but this is still available for use. Ringing. At the start of the year we were regularly meeting 6 on a Sunday morning, and therefore devoted practice time for 6 bell methods, even when there were more of us in the tower. Sean and Claire have both begun conducting simple touches. As a band we have become proficient ringing the alternative methods – Single Oxford 7 in place of Grandsire 7, Double Oxford 6 in place of Plain Bob 6. On occasions this has been practised on a Monday and rung on a Sunday morning. We have stopped the regular handbell nights, we reached a level where long touches would be more beneficial than a practice. Social. I’m pleased to report that the social activities continue, we now have a regular games night. We have also engaged in a few church related activities, once again supporting the church teas, and a number of us went to the Carol Service. We had a damp, but enjoyable tower outing to Basingstoke. We also rang for the Coronation, ‘Ring for the King’ The Future. I’m aware that my work will become significantly more demanding this year, and so I shall be stepping down at this point, as I will be unlikely to have the time to do this properly. I’d like to thank everyone for their support this year.

## **21.The Friends of St Michael’s Report (Registered Charity Number 1070040)**

The Friends of St. Michael’s Bray was formed in 1998 with the objective of raising funds for the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of St. Michael’s Church, Bray including the Church Hall and Churchyard.

Since formation of the charity The Friends have raised funds which have enabled the purchase, refurbishment or repair of numerous items which could not have been afforded from the normal income of the church which is generally only sufficient to cover routine running costs. These include: cushions, kneelers, hymn and prayer books, office and kitchen equipment, folding tables, a storage shed, tents, a portable font, a lectern and Bible, the restoration of historic memorials, repairs to Vestments, a new Altar Frontal for Ordinary time, a new Altar Frontal for Lent and Advent, assistance with floodlighting and boiler replacement work, support for Music at Bray events and significant contributions towards a new piano, essential work on the organ and the under pew heating. When projects requiring assistance from The Friends arise the PCC request a donation and this is discussed and agreed by the Committee.

In April 2023 the dinner in aid of The Friends at Caldesi in Campagna in Bray, organised by Julie Graham and hosted by Giancarlo was a great success. The Sunday afternoon tea in the church hall hosted by The Friends was again very successful and Julie is organising another tea this year on Sunday 7 th July.

On Sunday 8 th September The Friends will be taking a table at the Bray Village Fete. The Friends have invited Hugo Vickers, the well-known author of books about the Royal Family to give a talk in church in the Autumn. Hugo is an excellent speaker and details about tickets for the occasion will be issued soon.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends will be held on Sunday 19 th May at 11.45 in church and we hope as many members as possible can join the meeting and also those interested in joining The Friends and supporting our church..

The Committee comprises: Lynda Jones (Chair); Bill Banks (Treasurer); Sarah Pallot (Secretary); Julie Graham (Events Coordinator); Graham Barker, Steve Adams, Julie Tompkins and Rev Ainsley Swift (ex officio member).

The Trustees of The Friends are Lynda Jones, Bill Banks and Graham Barker.

**22.** Appointment of an Independent Examiner

**23.** Date of the Next Annual Parochial Meeting  
TBC 27/4/25

#### **24: ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SUMMER TEAS 2023**

Well done to all those who baked and served each week. A number of people raised money for Charities they support such as Alexander Devine and Breast Cancer Now to name just two. We also raised funds for the Church as well. Thank you to all who supported, it is so encouraging when you have spent hours in the kitchen to see people enjoy your hard work!

A total of over £3000 was raised including the coffee sales of a Sunday morning , the community cafe and the craft fayre.

We will be starting this year's teas in June and will go on until the end of August. Several people have enquired about dates to hold a tea such as The Friends Of St Michaels. We will also host tea in aid of several charities. There will be at least 2 in aid of general Church funds. If you think you fancy hosting a tea please speak either to Pam Woodruff or Katrin Brunning.

**25.** Any Other Business

Please advise a member of the PCC if you wish to raise a matter prior to the meeting.